

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

1129 VERMONT AVENUE, N. W., WASHINGTON 5, D. C. • REpublic 7-4398

Chairman: MRS. ALBERT D. LASKER

Executive Director: MIKE GORMAN

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

Hon. Sherman Adams
Assistant to The President
Hon. Douglas McKay
Secretary of the Interior
Hon. Val Peterson
Administrator, Federal Civil Defense
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. Gordon Persons
Governor of Alabama
Hon. Howard Pyle
Governor of Arizona
Hon. Francis Cherry
Governor of Arkansas
Hon. Goodwin J. Knight
Governor of California
Hon. Dan Thornton
Governor of Colorado
Hon. John Lodge
Governor of Connecticut
Hon. J. Caleb Boggs
Governor of Delaware
Hon. Luther W. Youngdahl
Judge, District of Columbia
Hon. Charley E. Johns
Acting Governor of Florida
Hon. Herman E. Talmadge
Governor of Georgia
Hon. William G. Stratton
Governor of Illinois
Hon. George N. Craig
Governor of Indiana
Hon. William S. Beardsley
Governor of Iowa
Hon. Edward F. Arn
Governor of Kansas
Hon. Lawrence Wetherby
Governor of Kentucky
Hon. Charles P. Farnsley
Former Mayor of Louisville, Ky.
Hon. Robert F. Kennon
Governor of Louisiana
Hon. Burton M. Cross
Governor of Maine
Hon. Theodore R. McKeldin
Governor of Maryland
Hon. Christian A. Herter
Governor of Massachusetts
Hon. G. Mennen Williams
Governor of Michigan
Hon. C. Elmer Anderson
Governor of Minnesota
Hon. Hugh White
Governor of Mississippi
Hon. J. Hugo Aronson
Governor of Montana
Hon. Robert B. Crosby
Governor of Nebraska
Hon. Charles H. Russell
Governor of Nevada
Hon. Hugh Gregg
Governor of New Hampshire
Hon. Robert B. Meyner
Governor of New Jersey
Hon. William B. Umstead
Governor of North Carolina
Hon. C. Norman Brunsdale
Governor of North Dakota
Hon. Johnston Murray
Governor of Oklahoma
Hon. Paul L. Patterson
Governor of Oregon
Hon. John S. Fine
Governor of Pennsylvania
Hon. Dennis J. Roberts
Governor of Rhode Island
Hon. Sigurd Anderson
Governor of South Dakota
Hon. Frank G. Clement
Governor of Tennessee
Hon. Lee E. Emerson
Governor of Vermont
Hon. John S. Battle
Former Governor of Virginia
Hon. Arthur B. Langlie
Governor of Washington
Hon. William C. Marland
Governor of West Virginia
Hon. Walter J. Kohler, Jr.
Governor of Wisconsin
Hon. C. J. Rogers
Governor of Wyoming

19 November 1954

Mrs. Albert D. Lasker
The Lasker Foundation
3313 Chrysler Building
New York 17, New York

Dear Mrs. Lasker:

On July 27th I sent you a brief report on the Southern Regional Conference on Mental Health Training and Research held in Atlanta July 21st to 24th. At that time, I pointed out that 170 official delegates from 16 states had adopted a series of sweeping recommendations for a new attack upon mental illness in the South. According to Dr. Nicholas Hobbs, director of the mental health project, these recommendations were the end result of intensive work by more than 2,000 professional and lay people in the Southern area.

Things have been moving at a breakneck speed since then. At a Legislative Work Conference in Houston on September 16th, key legislators from the Southern States not only enthusiastically endorsed the major training and research recommendations, but requested legislative participation in any organization set up to achieve the Atlanta objectives.

The climax was reached at the Southern Governors' Conference at Boca Raton, Florida November 11-13th. The Chief Executives of the 16 member states voted to establish a Regional Council on Mental Health Training and Research financed by an annual contribution of \$8,000 from each participating state. The Council will employ a highly qualified technical staff to further the 14 specific training and research objectives listed by the Governors. The major objectives include increased state legislative appropriations for mental health research and training; regional compacts and arrangements for both the training of professional personnel and the development of regional mental health research centers; training and research fellowships, either at the state or regional level, and the organization of regional conferences to stimulate interest in mental health research and training among key legislators and citizens.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hon. Sidney S. McMath
Former Governor of Arkansas

Chief Justice Earl Warren
*United States Supreme Court and
Former Governor of California*

Hon. Elbert N. Carvel
Former Governor of Delaware

Hon. Fuller Warren
Former Governor of Florida

Hon. Henry F. Schricker
Former Governor of Indiana

Hon. Earl K. Long
Former Governor of Louisiana

Hon. Frederick G. Payne
*United States Senator and
Former Governor of Maine*

Hon. Paul A. Dever
Former Governor of Massachusetts

Hon. Fielding L. Wright, Sr.
Former Governor of Mississippi

Hon. John W. Bonner
Former Governor of Montana

Hon. Alfred E. Driscoll
Former Governor of New Jersey

Hon. W. Kerr Scott
Former Governor of North Carolina

Hon. Gordon Browning
Former Governor of Tennessee

Hon. Frank A. Barrett
*United States Senator and
Former Governor of Wyoming*

SPONSORING MEMBERS

Spafford Ackerly, M.D.
Mrs. H. R. Aldredge
Chester Alter, Ph.D.
Mrs. Max Ascoli
Edward L. Bernays
Barry Bingham
Karl Bowman, M.D.
Francis J. Braceland, M.D.
Henry W. Brosin, M.D.
Arthur Bunker
Melvin A. Casberg, M.D.
Mrs. Bennett Cerf
Bennett Cerf
David Crockett
R. W. Cumley, Ph.D.
Albert Deutsch
Franklin G. Ebaugh, M.D.
Mrs. Winthrop Emmet
O. Spurgeon English, M.D.
Jack Ewalt, M.D.
Jacob Finesinger, M.D.
Emerson Foote
Mrs. Allmon Fordyce
Edwin Gildea, M.D.
Margaret C. L. Gildea, M.D.

Mike Gorman
Roy Grinker, M.D.
Mrs. John Gunther
John Gunther
Irving Harris
F. Homburger, M.D.
Robert W. Hyde, M.D.
Mrs. Henry Ittleson, Sr.
M. Ralph Kaufman, M.D.
William K. Keller, M.D.
Mrs. Robert Kintner
Judge John H. Lamneck
Isabel Leighton
Mrs. David Levy
Mrs. Joshua Logan
Joshua Logan
Mrs. Leonard Lyons
Arthur Mag
Mrs. Florence Mahoney
Albert Q. Maisel
Mrs. Edward Marcus
Mrs. Joseph Mankiewicz
Ben May

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
William C. Menninger, M.D.
Lois Mattox Miller
John A. P. Millet, M.D.
Robert A. Moore, M.D.
Douglas Orr, M.D.
Al Ostrow
Clifton Perkins, M.D.
Howard Potter, M.D.
Justin Reese
Bernard J. Reis
Thomas A. C. Rennie, M.D.
Elmo Roper
Thomas Rosenberg
Helen Ross
Leonard Rountree, M.D.
Arthur H. Ruggles, M.D.
Mrs. Charles Schlaifer
Julius Schreiber, M.D.
Spyros P. Skouras
Harry C. Solomon, M.D.
Benjamin Spock, M.D.
Mrs. Charles Vidor
Ozro T. Woods, M.D.
S. Bernard Wortis, M.D.

Purpose: Through a broad educational campaign, to create public understanding and support of the 10-point Bill of Rights for the mentally ill adopted by the 1954 National Governors' Conference on Mental Health. To convince the American people to actively support federal, state and local preventive mental health programs emphasizing research, training and expanded clinic and community services designed to treat and cure mental illness in its early stages.

It is also important to remember that each of the 16 Southern States has completed an exhaustive survey of its mental health research and training potential. The recommendations of these individual state survey committees call for the expenditure of additional millions of dollars in the launching of research projects and the training of increased professional personnel within state boundaries. The Atlanta Conference recommended the continuance of these state research and training committees on a permanent basis, and a number of Governors have already taken such action.

The South is the first region to mount a cooperative attack upon mental illness, but the idea is catching on rapidly in other parts of the country. In the Midwest, two preliminary meetings have been held and 10 Midwestern states have completed research and training surveys leading up to a Midwestern Governors' Conference on Mental Health November 30th in Chicago. In the Far West, 80 legislators and administrative officials from the 11 Western states met late in September and voted for a survey of mental health training and research facilities in that area. In New England, a regional compact on higher education has been signed by the participating state Chief Executives. At a conference of Northeastern mental health authorities early in October, proposals for regional mental health agreements were discussed.

The National Mental Health Committee is very proud of its role in these historic activities. It is particularly grateful to its honorary chairmen, the 40 State Governors, who have displayed great leadership in furthering our common objectives. I will keep you posted on regional developments in other parts of the country. I enclose reprints of two NEW YORK TIMES Sunday columns written by Dr. Howard A. Rusk.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Gorman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Mike" and "Gorman" being capitalized and prominent.

Mike Gorman
Executive Director

MG/ne
Enclosures